

Appln No. 09/926,234
Reply to the Office Action dated February 24, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 8, 9 and 11-13 have been canceled. Claims 4-7 and 10 remain active in the case. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Amendment to the Specification

The amendment to (SEQ ID NO: 4) in the text is to correct an error in the sequence of amino acid residues by deleting an extraneous glycine residue. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The objection to the claims is overcome by the cancellation of Claims 1-3, 8, 9 and 11-13. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection, 35 USC 112

The basis of the rejection is obviated by the cancellation of Claims 3, 8, 9 and 13. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The objection to Claim 2, line 14 is obviated by the amendment to the claim. As to the matter of the scope of the peptide sequences of Claims 1-3, applicants note that they have presented new Claims 4, 5 and 8 which are limited to the elected peptide sequence I. Moreover, as addressed below, applicants maintain that there is a unity of invention among the four peptides.

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Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants enclose a new Form 1449, as requested by the Examiner, for the Examiner to sign and date and return to applicants.

Restriction Requirement

The restriction requirement is rendered moot by the cancellation of Claims 1-3, 8, 9 and 11-13.

It is now believed that the application is in proper condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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